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 Group A.U.: 3643  
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**In the Claims.**

Please amend the claims, as follows:

**Claims 1-13 (Canceled)**

14. (currently amended) A modular cage, comprising:  
 corner joints having a corner body and at least three tangs that  
 protrude at right angles from said corner body;  
 reversible locking devices provided at said tangs;  
 first profiled elements, comprising first seats which have surfaces thereof shaped  
 complementary to the tangs, said tangs being insertable with said reversible  
 locking devices in said first seats for interlocking ;  
 second profiled elements comprising first seats which have surfaces thereof  
 shaped complementary to the tangs, said tangs being insertable with said reversible  
 locking devices in said first seats for interlocking; [and]  
 grill-like wall elements;  
 additional supporting seats provided both at said first and second  
 profiled elements;  
 said grill-like wall elements being removably accommodated and retained in said  
 additional supporting seats and said first and second profiled elements being  
 removably connected to each other and interlocked by way of said corner joints so  
 as to form a supporting frame on which said grill-like wall elements are  
 removably supported so as to form said cage; and  
auxiliary connection components, each one of said corner bodies of said corner  
joints being provided with a dead hole for accommodating a respective one of said  
auxiliary connecting components.

15. (original) The cage of claim 14, further comprising a drawer-like body  
 which is slidably insertable at a lower part of said frame so as to constitute a  
 bottom of the cage.

16. (original) The cage of claim 14, wherein said first and second profiled  
 elements are substantially tubular.

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17. (original) The cage of claim 15, wherein said second profiled elements are arranged at the lower part of the frame and comprise respective second seats which are open and arranged longitudinally along said second profiled elements so as to form sliding guides for said drawer-like body.

18. (original) The cage according to claim 17, further comprising first and second contoured end plugs which are provided with respective tangs, said second profiled elements comprising respective third seats in which said tangs of said contoured end plugs are inserted and locked.

19. (original) The cage of claim 18, comprising at least two said first end plugs which are constituted each by a corner block, said tangs being tubular and monolithic with said corner block and protruding therefrom.

20. (original) The cage according to claim 19, comprising at least two said second end plugs which are constituted by a corner block, said tangs being tubular and monolithic with said corner block and protruding therefrom, said corner block further comprising a recess which is arranged so as to provide an extension of a corresponding one of said second seats providing said sliding guides for the drawer-like body.

21. (original) The cage according to claim 17, wherein said drawer-like body is constituted by a tray with sides shaped complementarily to surfaces of said second seats, and by a grille-like panel which surmounts said sides.

22. (original) The cage according to claim 14, wherein said reversible locking devices are constituted each by an elastic tongue provided monolithic with a respective one of said tangs and by a slot formed in a corresponding one of said first and second profiled elements, said tongue being adapted to enter, with a reversible interlocking action, a respective slot.

23. (canceled)

24. (original) The cage of claim 14, wherein said corner joints are provided with at least one additional tang for connection to additional frames arranged side by side to provide modular extension of the cage.

25. (original) The cage according to claim 23, wherein said auxiliary connection components comprise pins provided with an intermediate flange, said pins being each accommodatable in the dead hole of a respective one of said

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corner joints so as to allow modular stacked extension of the frames.

26. (original) The cage according to claim 23, wherein said auxiliary connection components comprise wheels, of the castor type, with a pin-shaped tang to provide wheeled support for the cage.

27. (canceled)

28. (canceled)

29. (new) A modular cage, comprising:

corner joints having a corner body and at least three tangs that protrude at right angles from said corner body;

reversible locking devices provided at said tangs;

first profiled elements, comprising first seats which have surfaces thereof shaped complementary to the tangs, said tangs being insertable with said reversible locking devices in said first seats for interlocking ;

second profiled elements comprising first seats which have surfaces thereof shaped complementary to the tangs, said tangs being insertable with said reversible locking devices in said first seats for interlocking; [and]

grill-like wall elements;

additional supporting seats provided both at said first and second profiled elements;

said grill-like wall elements being removably accommodated and retained in said

additional supporting seats and said first and second profiled elements being

removably connected to each other and interlocked by way of said corner joints so as

to form a supporting frame on which said grill-like wall elements are removably

supported so as to form said cage; and

first and second contoured end plugs which are provided with

respective tangs, said second profiled elements comprising

respective third seats in which said tangs of said contoured end

plugs are inserted and locked.

30. (new) A modular cage, comprising:

corner joints having a corner body and at least three tangs that protrude at right

angles and along three mutually perpendicular axes from said corner body;

reversible locking devices provided at said tangs;

first profiled elements, comprising first seats which have surfaces thereof shaped

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complementary to the tangs, said tangs being insertable with said reversible locking devices in said first seats for interlocking ;  
second profiled elements comprising first seats which have surfaces thereof shaped complementary to the tangs, said tangs being insertable with said reversible locking devices in said first seats for interlocking; and  
grill-like wall elements;  
additional supporting seats provided both at said first and second profiled elements; said grill-like wall elements being removably accommodated and retained in said additional supporting seats and said first and second profiled elements being removably connected to each other and interlocked by way of said corner joints so as to form a supporting frame on which said grill-like wall elements are removably supported so as to form said cage.